

**MEXBOROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**REPORT**

ON THE

**HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT**

DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1948

by

Dr. JOHN LEIPER, M.B.E.

**Medical Officer of Health**

together with the

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF  
SANITARY INSPECTOR**

Mr. H. BREARLEY



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# MEXBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## MEMBERS 1948

**Chairman of the Council :**

Councillor J. KELLY.

**Vice-Chairman of the Council :**

Councillor G. W. HURST.

**Chairman of the Public Health Committee :**

Councillor W. H. F. DIXON.

**Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee :**

Councillor K. LEE.

### **Councillors :**

W. A. BRADSHAW.

F. F. HALL.

J. HANBY.

G. M. HANSON,

A. LYONS.

(County Councillor).

T. ROEBUCK.

G. S. MORLEY.

S. W. STEVENS.

A. C. ROWSON.

J. WALTON.

S. STUBBS.

J. H. WHITE.

J. C. WILLETTS.

S. WORTH.

### **Medical Officer of Health :**

JOHN LEIPER, M.B.E., M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

### **Chief Sanitary Inspector and Director of Public Cleansing :**

H. BREARLEY, CERT. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,

Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

### **Additional Sanitary Inspector :**

A. MILLTHORPE, CERT. S.I.B., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

### **Chief Clerk (Divisional Public Health Department):**

RONALD M. MARTIN.

### **Clerk Sanitary Department :**

T. J. TAYLOR.



# Mexborough Urban District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1948.

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Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1948, and as it is my first Report of this nature to your Authority, I find it my pleasant duty to pay personal tribute to my predecessor Dr. T. Lindsay. Since taking over the appointment from Dr. T. Lindsay I have met with every courtesy, kindness, and help, for which I take this opportunity of thanking him.

I took up the appointment of Medical Officer of Health to the Mexborough Urban District, and Divisional Medical Officer of Health of Division No. 30, West Riding County Council, on the 1st April, 1948. The National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation three months later, on the 5th July, and thus I have found it to be a year of expansion in the socio-medical services of your district. The personal health services, including the day-to-day administration of the work of the Health Visitors, School Nurses, Midwives, and Home Nurses were gradually brought under Divisional administration during the year — at the end of which, this process was almost complete.

An important advance in the Maternity and Child Welfare Service was marked by the appointment of Dr. J. C. A. Renshaw at the end of June, 1948, as Junior Obstetrician. This was a combined appointment, the first of its type in the West Riding, and entailed the supervision of the 22 lying-in beds of the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough, and the examination of expectant mothers at five Ante-Natal Clinics held in this Divisional Area. In Mexborough during the year, in addition to the Consultant Ante-Natal Clinics under the administration of the Welfare Authority, expectant mothers from your District attended the Ante-Natal Clinic at Rock House, Swinton, and booked cases for the Maternity Wards at the Montagu Hospital were examined, during the second half of the year, by the Junior Obstetrician at the

Hospital. I feel that the appointment of a Junior Obstetrician will, as time goes by, be high on the list of those factors which will ensure a minimum wastage of infant life, and also help to diminish even still further the small risk attached to the confinement of mothers in your District. I felt during the year that there was a need for an Ante-Natal Clinic for expectant mothers of Mexborough, in your Township, and arrangements were started during the year to obtain this.

Whilst there have been these far reaching changes in the administration and work of the personal health services affecting the individual, I am glad to state that I found the environmental sanitary work exceedingly well carried out, and in your District, I greatly hope that the one will not become out of step with the other.

In this respect I wish to remind you that the presence in Mexborough of relatively large numbers of old sub-standard property **incapable in many cases** of being made fit for human habitation, and the fact that approximately 60% of the homes in this densely populated industrial district are without hot water supplies, strike disquieting notes.

There are about 250 of these old, sub-standard properties in Mexborough which will, I hope, be the first to be dealt with by Clearance action when this is permissible. An analysis of the Infant Deaths during the year 1948, showed that over 20% of the deaths under one year of age (four of the nineteen recorded) occurred in these 250 old properties, which represent about 5% of the total homes in the town. This would indicate to me that infants in these old sub-standard properties are subject to a health hazard, for one reason or another, above the average, and thus, especially frequent domiciliary visits should be paid by the personal health visitors, and also it would indicate the high importance of prompt carrying out of essential structural repairs.

I did feel that there was need for more integration of the efforts of the sanitary staff and the staff of the personal medical services, and this was arranged.

The maintenance of repairs in the home, public cleansing, cleanliness and purity of food sold in your District, the eradication of infestations in the home, the tracing and preventive measures taken on the occurrence of infection, together with the great quantity of other sanitary work which has been carried out during the year so thoroughly by Mr. H. Brearley, M.S.I.A. and his Additional Inspector, are to my



mind most healthy signs. The local environmental health position was most fully explained to me by Mr. Brearley on my taking over the appointment.

During the year, I am glad to recall that you decided to give a small allocation of tenancies of council houses to tuberculous patients, undergoing domiciliary treatment, who were living in overcrowded circumstances. I feel that by this measure, in addition to the routine clinical and X-ray check of contacts, and sanatorium treatment of cases, we will prevent the spread of this disease, and thus help to reduce its incidence.

Starting during the year, it is hoped to establish a permanent record of the socio-medical conditions in your District and the Divisional Area as a whole.

The year has been one of great social events and changes which will be reflected shortly in your Annual Statistics. My appreciation of the health situation in your District is that you are now on the threshold of a new era of social medicine. By means of health education, and team work, of the social and environmental hygiene staffs, it is hoped slowly to come to a position where the priceless gem of positive health of the people of your District may be obtained.

I would further remind you that a polluted atmosphere mocks our efforts to attempt positive health, but the progress of ideas of social medicine is now so rapid that even the time can be foreseen when such curious anomalies will be no more than a memory.

The vital statistics give a very clear picture of the health of the District during the period under review. The birth rate 18·7 has declined from last year's figures of 21·4 per 1,000 population, but this year's figure is higher than the rate for the administrative County—18·5, and England and Wales—17·9. The crude death rate 10·9 per 1,000 estimated population has increased slightly over the rate of 10·7 for 1947, but approximates closely to the England and Wales rate of 10·8 and is under that for the administrative County—11·3. Deaths from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system have increased from 0·26 last year to 0·47 per 1,000 population this year, and the deaths from diarrhoea under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births has been recorded at 8·36 this year in comparison with 2·44 last year and a rate of 4·38 for the administrative County and 3·3 for England and Wales this year. The Infant Death Rate has risen slightly from the figure of 46·5 last year, to

53 this year, but this important rate is slightly less than the Divisional rate of 56. Bearing in mind the environment and heavy industrial nature of the work carried out in and near your District, I consider the vital statistic figures for the year 1948 to be satisfactory.

In conclusion may I take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council for their help and interest in all matters relating to the health of the District. I also wish to thank Mr. S. H. E. Crane, Clerk to the Council, and all the Officials of the Mexborough Urban District Council for their co-operation and help. Also Mr. Brearley and members of his staff, and my staff for their assistance in the preparation of this Report.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN LEIPER,

M.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,  
Mexborough.  
24th September, 1949.

### Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) ... ..	1,451
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population	
mid 1948 ... ..	19,150
Number of inhabited houses (31st December, 1948)	5,028
Rateable value ... ..	£75,585
Net Product of a Penny Rate ... ..	£277
Height above Sea Level (in feet) ... ..	50—250
Rainfall for Year (in inches) ... ..	21·03
Number of days on which rain fell ... ..	153
Mean Temperature ... ..	50·8°F

Mexborough is a compact market town of 1,451 acres, with a population of nearly 20,000 fringed with collieries, and is situated centrally in the heart of industrial South Yorkshire. It is built for the most part on sandstone and gradually rising ground on the north side of the river Don which forms the Southern boundary of the Urban District. The chief occupations are Mining, Engineering and Printing, and during the year there has been a minimal amount of unemployment. During 1948, various firms of a light industrial nature viz. manufacture of scissors, umbrella frames, cardboard boxes, overalls, and cloth repairing, have been established in the town. In the main these firms use female labour.

### Vital Statistics for 1948.

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births : Legitimate ... ..	163	179	342
Illegitimate ... ..	11	6	17
	<hr/> 174	<hr/> 185	<hr/> 359
Stillbirths ... ..	4	6	10
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ... ..	11	8	19
Deaths (all ages) ... ..	128	81	209
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated			
resident population ... ..	18·7		
Stillbirths—Rate per 1,000 Births			
(Live and Still) ... ..	27·1		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	10·9		



## Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	1	2.71
Other maternal causes ... ..	Nil	Nil
	<hr/> 1 <hr/>	<hr/> 2.71 <hr/>

## Death-Rate of Infants under One Year of Age .

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	52.92
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	38.01
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	353.

## Deaths from :

Cancer (all ages) ... ..	31
Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages) ... ..	9
Other forms of Tuberculosis (all ages) ... ..	2

## DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES DURING 1948.

Cause of Death					Males	Females
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	6	3
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	—
10.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—

11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	—	—
12.	Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	1	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (m)	—	—	—
	and Uterus (f)	...	1	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	4	6
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	—	—
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	11	8
17.	Diabetes	...	1	—
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	16	12
19.	Heart Disease	...	32	19
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	2	3
21.	Bronchitis	...	19	5
22.	Pneumonia	...	8	5
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	1	—
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	2	—
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	1	2
26.	Appendicitis	...	—	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	3	—
28.	Nephritis	...	1	2
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	...	—	1
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	...	4	1
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, etc.	3	1	
33.	Suicide	...	—	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	—	2
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	2	2
36.	All Other Causes	...	8	5
Total from all causes			128	81

A comparison of the various rates in your District as against England and Wales, the 126 County Boroughs, etc., and the 140 smaller towns, are appended below :—

	England and Wales	126 C.B's. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Res. Pop. 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census	Mexborough Urban District
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
<b>Births :</b>				
Live Births ... ..	17.90	20.00	19.20	18.74
Still Births ... ..	0.42	0.52	0.43	0.52
<b>Deaths :</b>				
All Causes ... ..	10.80	11.60	10.70	10.90
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ... ..	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.57
Influenza ... ..	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ... ..	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.67

**Notifications :**

(Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever ... ..	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.05
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.67
Whooping Cough ... ..	3.42	3.51	3.31	2.61
Diphtheria ... ..	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.05
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	9.34	9.75	8.84	7.31
Pneumonia ... ..	0.73	0.84	0.60	1.82
Erysipelas ... ..	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.05
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.10
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

**Deaths :**

All causes under 1 year ... ..	34	39	32	52.92
Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 yrs. of age	3.30	4.50	2.10	8.35

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

**Notifications :**

(Corrected)				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ... ..	6.89	8.90	4.71	0.00



### Infantile Mortality Rate.

In all, 19 children under one year of age died during the year when 359 births were recorded, representing a rate of 52·9 deaths per thousand live births (England and Wales rate— 34). I feel that to some extent the increase in the live birth rate appertaining in your District over that in England and Wales has been the cause of this relatively high rate which I expect to fall rapidly during the next few years.

By the appointment of a Junior Obstetrician, together with more intense domiciliary Ante-Natal care, and more regular and numerous clinic attendances, it is hoped shortly to diminish the neo-natal deaths of infants in your District. I would point out that of the 19 deaths of infants recorded, 11 of them occurred during the first month of life. The Infant Death Rate normally varies fairly widely from year to year, and in your District it was 46·5 last year and 59·4 in 1946.

Of the 19 infants who died over 1 year of age during the year, the following tables give the cause of death and also the age at death.

#### INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE, 1948.

Cause of Death	Age at Death								
	Weeks				Months				Total
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	1-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	
Prematurity ...	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	5
Broncho-pneumonia & pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	1	5
Congenital Malformation	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Asphyxia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jaundice ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

The nineteen infant deaths occurred during the following months of the year :—

					1st Quarter
January ...	...	...	...	3	5
February ...	...	...	...	1	
March ...	...	...	...	1	
					2nd Quarter
April ...	...	...	...	6	8
May ...	...	...	...	—	
June ...	...	...	...	2	

				3rd Quarter
July	...	...	1	
August	...	...	2	4
September	...	...	1	
				4th Quarter
October	...	...	1	
November	...	...	—	2
December	...	...	1	

### Maternal Deaths.

As in 1947 there was again one maternal death due to puerperal and post abortive sepsis. The maternal mortality rate has increased slightly from the figure of 2·39 per 1,000 live and still births to that of 2·71 owing to the total of still and live births decreasing from 418 in 1947 to 369 during 1948.

### Section B.

#### (1) General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(i) The full particulars of the Public Health Officers of your Authority are incorporated for easy reference at the beginning of the report.

(ii) (a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Bacteriological and Pathological specimens are sent to the Medical Research Council Laboratory at Wakefield under the direction of Dr. W. F. Lane, and these services are fully adequate. Blood examinations for grouping, Rhesus factor and Kahn tests are undertaken by the Blood Transfusion Service, Sheffield.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** The Ambulance facilities for your District are adequate, and a Depot of the County Ambulance Service is situated at Dunford House, Wath-on-Deane, where 6 ambulance cars and 1 sitting case car were available during the year. These services also cover adjacent districts.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.** The Home Nursing Service for your District was taken over on the appointed day, by the County Council of the West Riding of Yorkshire. The staff consisted of one State Registered Nurse and one State Enrolled Assistant Nurse. At the end of the year arrangements had been made to enlarge these services. I feel there is a wide field for the work of nursing in the home, especially where this is linked up with the nursing after-care of patients discharged from Hospital. During the period from the 5th July to 31st December, 57 cases were treated in the home, and 1,475 nursing visits made.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics, including Clinics used solely for diagnosis of consultation.**

(i) **Child Welfare Centre, Mexborough.**

Tuesday—9.30 a.m. - 12 noon — School Clinic.

2.0 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. — Infant Welfare Clinic.

Thursday—9.30 a.m. - 12 noon — School Clinic.

2.0 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. — Infant Welfare Clinic.

Friday—3.0 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. — Immunisation Clinic.

(ii) **Tuberculosis Dispensary, Market Street,  
Mexborough.**

Monday and Wednesday. 10 a.m. — 12 noon.

The staff at this Tuberculosis Dispensary consist of a Tuberculosis Officer and the Tuberculosis Health Visitor, and a close liaison is kept by your Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector, and the Medical and Nursing Staff of the Tuberculosis Dispensary. Cases undergoing domiciliary treatment in overcrowded homes are investigated and recommendations for rehousing put to your Housing Committee by the Medical Officer of Health.

(iii) **Venereal Disease.**

A treatment and diagnostic Clinic is held at 12, Frederick Street, Rotherham, and there are other Centres at Barnsley, Sheffield and Doncaster.

(e) **Hospitals.**

(i) **General.** General Hospital services are provided mainly through the Montagu Hospital at Mexborough, which is situated in the North part of the Town. This Hospital, which is well equipped and staffed, and which carries out such a large volume of acute and chronic work both with in and out-patients has proved a great boon during the year, and the good relations existing before the 5th July when this was a voluntary Hospital have been maintained subsequently, mainly through Mr. A. R. C. Renner, F.H.A., the Secretary of the Rotherham and Mexborough Hospital Management Committee and Mr. I. H. Meyer, F.R.C.S., Resident Surgical Officer. The liaison between the local Health Authority and the Hospital Management Committee has been great and Dr. Cedric C. Harvey, Paediatrician, and Dr. J. C. A. Renshaw, Junior Obstetrician both hold Clinics in the Hospital. In addition to this, the Hospital which serves such a large area from which so much after-care work comes from, was thought



to be suitable for the combined appointment between the two Authorities of a Health Visitor-Almoner, and this project was investigated during the year. Other Hospitals serving your Area include the Municipal General Hospital, Rotherham and the General Hospitals, Sheffield.

(ii) **Infectious Diseases Hospital.**

Conisborough Infectious Diseases Hospital has proved entirely adequate for cases of infectious disease arising in your Area requiring hospital isolation and treatment during the year.

(c) **Maternity Hospitals.**

The Maternity Block of the Mexborough Montagu Hospital has **been only** partially used during the year owing to difficulties in obtaining trained Midwives. However, the Obstetric Unit of the Municipal Hospital, Rotherham, the Hallamshire, Listerdale, and Hamilton Annexe (Doncaster) Maternity Homes have been available during the year for booked cases on a priority system of admission. This system includes medical and obstetric conditions, and also bad socio-medical conditions, high on the list of priority. The services of the Jessop Hospital, Sheffield, where Mr. L. B. Patrick, F.R.C.O.G. Consultant Obstetrician in this Area has beds, have been available for abnormal cases. I feel confident that the arrangements for expectant mothers will be even further improved by the National Health Service scheme.

## 2. **Mental Health.**

No Divisional Mental Health Sub-Committee has been formed, and the number of Medical Officers employed in the Mental Health Services consist of Dr. B. R. A. Demaine, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Assistant County Medical Officer, one Social Worker, Mrs. E. K. Green, B.Sc., two Duly Authorised Officers, Mr. S. Cook and Mr. G. T. Collins. There is no Occupation Centre in your District, although during the year search was made for a suitable site near the locality. Cases requiring Occupation Centre Training were referred to the Occupation Centres controlled by the Doncaster County Borough. The supervision of two patients of a Divisional Area on licence from Institutions was undertaken by the Social Worker on behalf of the Hospital Management Committee. Ten reports were made upon the advisability of granting holiday leave to Institutional patients to homes in this Division. General reports on home conditions were also supplied when a question of discharge of patients from Institutions arose. No duties were delegated to voluntary associations.

In November, 1948, the Mental Health Social Worker started attending at a Mental Health Social Workers' Course organised by the Sheffield University Extra-Mural Department.

### Account of work undertaken in the community.

No work was carried out under Section 28, National Health Service Act, 1946. Mental Hospital After-care was not started until 1949, but five mental defectives formerly in Institutions were under friendly observation during the year. The Mental Health Social Workers' activities during the year covered the following :—

	Mental Deficiency Acts 1913 — 1938	
	Division 30	Mexboro' U.D.C.
1. No. of defectives ascertained ...	124	26
No. of defectives ascertained during 1948 ... ..	3	2
No. awaiting Institutional vacancies	17	2
2. No. under guardianship ... ..	10	3
No. under Statutory Supervision ...	109	21
No. under observation ... ..	5	2
3. No. being trained ... ..	10	4

### 3. Maternity and Child Welfare.

(i) **Midwifery Service.** During the year one Midwife was trained in the use of Gas and Air Analgesia and obtained a Certificate of Proficiency in the administration of Analgesia. In addition to this, the Relief Midwife, Nurse A. E. Smith, has attended a month's Course at the Sorrento Maternity Home, Birmingham, under the direction of Dr. Mary Crosse, for the domiciliary care of premature children. At the end of the year, the arrival of a premature baby cot was expected.

(ii) **Maternity Services.** Of the 359 births in your Area during the year, 239 Mothers were confined in their homes. Ante-Natal hostel accommodation was available for expectant mothers at Clifton Ante-Natal Hostel, Brighthouse. During the year arrangements for Home Helps were made as part of the Maternity Service for Mothers confined in the home.



(iii) **Health Visitors.** During the year the Health Visitors in your District carried out 339 first visits to children under one year of age, and 35 visits to children between the ages of one to five years.

Subsequent visits to children under one year total 599, and between the ages of one to five years, 1,145. In addition to these visits to infants, the Health Visitors also carried out 7 Ante-Natal Visits and 70 Special Visits. Special visits include cases of measles, gastro-enteritis, socio-medical visits, etc. During the year the new role of the Health Visitor as the family case worker was started.

Clinic attendances were very satisfactory for the year, and a total of 7,028 were made by children in your District. This was made up as follows:—

Children under 1 year of age ...	...	...	4,448
Children 1 to 5 years of age ...	...	...	2,580

This total is nearly 1,000 in excess of that for the year 1947.

The excellent work of the Voluntary Committee at the Child Welfare Clinic during the year, has been deeply appreciated, not only by the Staff, but also by the Mothers.

Expectant Mothers in your District made a total of 982 attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic, Mexborough Montagu Hospital, during the year under review.

(iv) **Arrangements for Dental, Orthopaedic, Eye and other Cases during the Year.**

**Dental Services.** There is no County Dental Clinic in the District but services are provided by the Clinics at Dunford House, Wath-on-Deerne, and Child Welfare Centre, Denaby.

**Orthopaedic Scheme.** Clinics are held twice a month at 20, Christchurch Road, Doncaster. Alternative Clinics to which children from your District can also be sent are held at Rawmarsh and Barnsley.

**Ophthalmic Service.** The County Oculist holds a monthly session in the Division, and visits to the schools of your District are carried out on the occasion of each visit.

**E.N.T. Service.** One Clinic per month is held for school children at the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough, under the direction of Mr. W. L. Rowe, F.R.C.S. A long waiting list of children who have been referred to the Aural Surgeon is being dealt with as expeditiously as possible.



**Paediatric Clinic.** One Paediatric Clinic is held each month, where special cases recommended by the Assistant County Medical Officers or General Practitioners are seen by the Child Health Officer, Dr. C. C. Harvey. In addition to this, children can be referred to Dr. Harvey at his bi-monthly Clinic at the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough.

**Ultra-Violet Ray Clinic.** Two Clinics per week are held at the Denaby Child Welfare Centre, for children from the whole of the Divisional Area who are recommended by a Doctor for this treatment. A period of treatment is recommended and the child is given a complete progressive course, under the care of an Assistant County Medical Officer.

#### 4. Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action under this Section was taken during the year.

### Section C.

#### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The main difficulty from the Public Health aspect of the housing problem in your area has been the control of the conditions under which the occupants of the several sub-standard properties are living. The most acute example of this is the situation existing at the Highwoods Road hutments, where at the end of the year ten families, most of whom with children, were living in very unsatisfactory conditions. These squatters were living in rapidly deteriorating ex-W.D. Nissen Huts on an exposed site, with poor sanitary convenience and a single stand pipe for the supply of water. Mr. H. Brearley, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, made adequate arrangements for pail closets but unfortunately the occupants misused them. During the year these conditions had in my opinion become a hazard to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and young children living in these hutments, and I held this view also for the worst of the sub-standard properties. When two families left, these hutments were instantly demolished to prevent any possible reoccupation.

As it was noted that there was a relatively high infant mortality and morbidity rate, amongst the child occupants of these sub-standard properties, arrangements were made for the Health Visitors to visit them as frequently as possible to ensure that every possible advice was given, and precautions taken to minimise the detrimental effect on the health of the children and mothers living under these sub-standard circumstances.

I have been impressed by the issue of informal and Statutory Notices (Section 9, Housing Act 1936 and Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936) in respect of houses which require repair, and note that during the year the vast majority of these repairs were carried out.

During the year your decision was made to rehouse those cases of Tuberculosis living under such overcrowded conditions that children had to sleep in the same bedroom as the parent who was suffering from this disease. Four such cases were rehoused by the end of the year.

### **Water Supply.**

The towns supply is derived from a bore-hole at the Waterworks, Pitt Street, Mexborough, and from Ludwell Springs about two miles to the North East, which delivers by gravitation to these works. The supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity, and chlorination was maintained throughout the year. Twenty-four samples for bacteriological examination were submitted, and of these twenty-two were placed in Class 1 — one in Class 2 — and one in Class 4. The Works have been satisfactorily maintained in all respects during the year.

### **Sewage Disposal.**

The Works, which have been working to capacity, have been satisfactorily maintained during the year, and no complaints with relation to the final effluent were received from the West Riding Rivers Board.

## **Section F.**

### **Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.**

(i) Measles and Whooping Cough, with the former more prevalent, were the heaviest of notified diseases during the year. Scarlet Fever cases numbered only 32 and no deaths resulted from any of these three infectious diseases. One case of diphtheria—a boy of sixteen years—was notified and subsequently confirmed. This case recovered, and during the year, mostly due to the work of my predecessor, 47 school children and 160 pre-school children were immunised.

It was decided that an intense immunisation scheme should occur in the schools and the Mexborough Child Welfare Clinic in 1949. The outbreak of Measles occurred in the schools in your area during the months of May and June, and then again during the winter months of November and December. At the time in question it was not possible to



use Measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation of the disease. Two uncorrected sporadic cases of acute poliomyelitis in a boy aged 9 years, and a girl aged one year and three months, were notified and confirmed, but the residual paralysis in both cases was slight.

Although the number of cases of Whooping Cough notified diminished from 71 in 1947 to 50 in 1948, numerous requests were received from parents with young children for a combined Pertussis-Diphtheria Antigen to be used in the Clinic. The Public Health Committee supported these requests and enquired as to the position. It was found that the efficiency of the combined vaccine was not yet proven and that controlled field trials of various vaccines were taking place throughout the country.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

#### Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) During 1948.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles ... ..	140	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	50	—	—
Small Pox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	32	24	—
Diphtheria ... ..	1*	1	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	35	—	13
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	2†	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	1	1	—
* 1 confirmed.			
† 2 confirmed.			



INFECTIOUS DISEASES — 1948.      Age Distribution.

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio- myelitis	Erysi- pelas	Cerebro- Spinal Fever
Under 1	—	—	5	10	6	—	—	—
1—2	3	—	1	13	8	1	—	—
2—3	2	—	1	7	12	—	—	—
3—4	2	—	2	12	6	—	—	—
4—5	11	—	1	31	8	—	—	—
5—10	10	—	4	52	6	1	—	—
10—15	2	—	4	9	2	—	—	1
15—25	2	1	1	5	—	—	—	—
25—45	—	—	6	1	1	—	—	—
45—65	—	—	4	—	1	—	1	—
65 and over	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
Total	32	1	35	140	50	2	1	1

## Tuberculosis.

(ii) New cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis number 23 as compared with 11 last year, and show an increase of the disease in the 16-25 and 26-35 age groups males and females. Five fresh cases were notified from four E.V.W's. and one Irish Male resident of the National Hostel Services Corporation Camp at the northern end of the town, during the year. I feel that these cases occurring in non-British subjects have been in part the cause of the increase in notifications received during 1948. It was decided to advise Mass Radiography facilities to over 500 residents and staff of this Hostel, and arrangements were made for this to be put into operation during 1949. The efficiency of notification of Tuberculosis in this area is high and no non-notified Tuberculosis deaths were recorded. On receipt of notifications contact investigation and advice is given by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality During 1948

#### New Cases.

Age Periods Years	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 ... ..	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 ... ..	—	—	1	1
6 — 15 ... ..	—	1	—	—
16 — 25 ... ..	5	2	—	—
26 — 35 ... ..	6	4	—	—
36 — 45 ... ..	1	1	—	—
46 — 55 ... ..	1	—	—	—
56 — 65 ... ..	—	1	—	—
66 and upwards	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	13	10	1	1

#### Deaths.

Age Periods Years	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 ... ..	—	—	—	1
1 — 5 ... ..	—	—	1	—
6 — 15 ... ..	—	1	—	—
16 — 25 ... ..	1	—	—	—
26 — 35 ... ..	—	1	—	—
36 — 45 ... ..	2	1	—	—
46 — 55 ... ..	—	—	—	—
56 — 65 ... ..	3	—	—	—
66 and upwards	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	6	3	1	1

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Mexborough Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Department during 1948.

## Sanitary Inspections of the District.

A total of 5,590 inspections were made by the staff, and these were allocated as follows:—

Nature of Inspections	No. of Inspections
Factories ... ..	54
Bakehouses ... ..	22
Drainage ... ..	75
Offensive Trades ... ..	29
Common Lodging House ... ..	10
Temporary Dwellings ... ..	251
Rats and Mice ... ..	321
Shops ... ..	72
Infectious Diseases ... ..	32
Houses ... ..	4,394
Slaughter Houses ... ..	97
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	72
Restaurants ... ..	26
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	42
Smoke inspections ... ..	42
Miscellaneous ... ..	51
	5,590

There was a great increase in the number of inspections over that for previous years, as for the first time there was a fully qualified Additional Sanitary Inspector on the Staff of the Department.



## Complaints.

609 complaints were received at the office and these received attention. The majority of the complaints were concerning housing defects. Informal action was taken in each case, followed by formal action where necessary. At the end of the year 12 complaints were outstanding.

## Notices Served.

Number of informal written notices served requiring nuisances and defects to be remedied ... ..	1,284
Number complied with ... ..	1,241
Number of verbal notices given ... ..	17
Number complied with ... ..	17
Number of Statutory Notices served ... ..	54
Number complied with ... ..	42

## Housing.

Most of the Department's time has been devoted again to housing work, and repairs of an urgent nature were carried out to houses. It was felt that the time had arrived when a more definite policy of reconditioning and repair of property was introduced, and more use made of the Housing Act, 1936. A report was submitted to the Council in July, 1948, on this subject, when it was felt that "while the standard of housing in Mexborough can compare very favourably with other industrial areas in the country, this standard can be materially highered by energetic action on our part".

Consequently the Council commenced to serve Notices under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936, when more extensive repairs were carried out to "better type" property. The problem of the old, worn out dwellings still remains a serious one, and, it is my opinion, that action under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, will have to be taken with the worst houses soon.

Housing work will remain the major task of this Department for many years to come, and it is hoped the time will not be far distant when certain "black spots" can be eradicated. Already, as I mentioned above, there has been a gradual change from the war-time emergency repair programme to one of more considered and systematic inspection and repair of houses. It was found that some owners were beginning to appreciate their responsibility in this matter, and were beginning to improve their properties without intimation from this Department.

Total number of houses inspected for defects (Public Health and Housing Acts) ... ..	911
Total defects found ... ..	2,017
Total defects remedied ... ..	1,898
Number of houses in the District ... ..	5,028

The following defects were remedied under the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

Chimneys repaired ... ..	81
Roofs repaired ... ..	364
Eaves gutters renewed ... ..	343
Walls repaired ... ..	53
Damp walls remedied ... ..	118
Windows repaired ... ..	91
Steps repaired ... ..	9
Handrails provided ... ..	6
Doors repaired ... ..	40
Plaster renewed ... ..	198
New sinks ... ..	16
New sinks linings ... ..	2
Waste pipes renewed ... ..	10
New coppers ... ..	30
Range repairs ... ..	129
Firebacks renewed ... ..	29
Floors repaired ... ..	26
Choked drains released ... ..	63
New gullies ... ..	7
New man-holes ... ..	3
Man-holes reconstructed ... ..	7
Smoke nuisances abated ... ..	11
Ventilation ... ..	1
Yard paving ... ..	37
Rain water pipes renewed ... ..	80
Water closets repaired ... ..	135
Defective vent shaft ... ..	1
<hr/>	
1,898	
<hr/>	

In addition to the above, dustbins were renewed in 216 cases, referred to this Department. Also one nuisance caused by the keeping of animals was abated.

### **Overcrowding.**

Overcrowding is still on the increase, and more and more couples are taking rooms in the town. It has not been possible to carry out an overcrowding survey, and only estimates can be made. This problem will only be solved by the more rapid provision of new houses.

The Council's Housing Points Scheme has been altered to allow points for overcrowding and since the war 59 cases of serious overcrowding have been re-housed.

### **Tents, Vans, Sheds.**

Tents, Vans, Sheds, used as dwellings have been practically eliminated from the town, and no licences have been issued by the Council. Apart from travelling show people, only one van is now in occupation in the fairground.

### **Common Lodging Houses.**

The one Common Lodging House in the area was inspected ten times and was found to be well kept.

A report was submitted to the Council on the condition of the unoccupied Common Lodging House in West Road, with a view to securing its demolition, it now being in a dilapidated condition.

### **Dirty and Verminous Premises.**

Routine inspections for cleanliness were carried out, and 59 houses, four of which were Council owned houses, were found verminous and accordingly treated. Disinfestation with D.D.T. and Gammexane, in liquid, powder and vapour form was used, with great success.

Co-operation of the tenants in this matter was sought and obtained. Without co-operation, the work tends not to be as successful as it might be. Free issues of insecticides are made weekly to tenants. The procedure adopted in cases of bed-bug infestations was to subject the premises to an initial treatment with insecticides. This was followed by a second disinfestation after an interval of approximately one month. During this month, tenants were instructed to take all necessary steps with insecticides to maintain a lethal deposit of D.D.T. or Gammexane and especially not to carry out decorating, etc., likely to reduce the value of the insecticidal deposit.

With the co-operation of the Housing Manager, a regular system of inspections for cleanliness of all prospective tenants of Council houses has been carried out. Any tenant



whose house was badly infested was kept back from occupation of a Council house until his present home was certified by this Department as being in a good state of cleanliness and vermin free.

The N.S.P.C.C. were called in to work in conjunction with the Department in six cases of neglect of children. One case was taken into the Courts and a sentence of three months imprisonment imposed on the father. Other cases showed improvement and are still under observation. I wish at this stage, to pay tribute to the local officer of the N.S.P.C.C. for his whole-hearted co-operation in the prevention of cruelty to children living in dirty and verminous homes in your District.

### **Squatters.**

In January, 1948, there were 14 families "squatting", 10 in disused Nissen huts at the Drill Hall, Manvers Road, and four families in properties which were condemned as unfit for human habitation and vacated before 1939, but had not been demolished.

The Nissen huts fast fell into dilapidation; the structure became perished and one hut was blown down during a gale. Three of the ten families there found alternative accommodation for themselves and a new family took possession of one of the huts before it could be demolished.

The families in the four condemned houses carried out "crude" repairs with a view to making the premises watertight, but living conditions were far from being satisfactory.

The whole matter of "squatting" in unsatisfactory premises is one which will have to be given considerable attention in the near future, as many of these families have now young children living under dangerous conditions.

### **Rodent Control.**

During the year under review the systematic inspection and control of Rodent infestation was continued. It was realised that the question of effective control and efficiency depended largely upon the employment of a skilled and fully trained operator, and one employee was subsequently sent to attend a short course of training arranged by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. This operator was given practical instruction locally and eventually was used to carry out treatment at all cases.

Major infestations were discovered and treatment given. The whole sewage system was tested and subsequently given a full treatment together with the outfall and sewage works.

The recently completed area of tipping was found to be badly infested, but the infestation was completely destroyed in one series of baiting by the use of Zinc Phosphide and Sausage Rusk. This case shows that where the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' recommended system of rodent control is carefully adhered to, successful disinfection is achieved.

There was an increase of small infestations in allotment gardens, located in almost every case, in or around pig and poultry keeping places. It is intended to survey the whole of the allotment gardens in the town with a view to the improvement of animal keeping standards.

Premises inspected ... ..	226
No. infested and treated ... ..	127
No. of baiting points ... ..	1,315
Prebait laid ... ..	3,945
Post baits showing infestations cleared ... ..	115

### Atmospheric Pollution.

During the year, the Township was still being subjected to the emission of sulphurous fumes from the Electricity Generating Station, especially in the eastern part of the town.

Three lead peroxide gauge readings were taken monthly during the year and no improvement in the circumstances was shown.

The Council continued to press the Ministry of Fuel and Power in this matter and it was decided to ask the Ministry to meet a joint deputation from this and other adjoining authorities. Consequently a deputation visited the Ministry of Fuel and Power in London, and submitted grit plates, photographs, grit samples and lead peroxide gauge readings. As a result of this meeting, the deputation was informed that the chimney height of the Electricity Station would be doubled, the work to commence in March 1949. In addition, efforts were to be made to ensure the delivery of a better type of coal, with a lower sulphur content.

In my opinion, although the raising of the chimneys will be a definite advantage, I am not in a position to agree that the nuisance will be finally abated. In co-operation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at Greenwich, five additional lead peroxide gauges were put down around the Power Station, with a view to correlating the relationship between stack height and the emission of sulphurous oxides. A table of the readings of the lead peroxide gauges is as follows :—



Below are shown the readings of the Lead Peroxide Gauges showing the variations in sulphur pollution during the period under review:—

Period	Station	Area Exposed in sq. cm.	Wt. Ba SO4			Wt. of SO3 collected mg./ 100 sq. cm./day
			in sample (mg.)	in control (mg.)	due to exposure (mg.)	
Jan. & Feb.	Market Hall	99.0	478.0	3.0	475.0	2.75
	Sewage Works	97.9	476.0	3.0	473.0	2.77
	Water Tower	99.9	348.0	3.0	354.0	1.98
Mar. & Apl.	Market Hall	98.8	392.5	4.0	388.5	2.21
	Sewage Works	99.0	528.0	4.0	524.0	2.98
	Water Tower	98.0	521.0	4.0	517.0	2.97
May & June	Market Hall	98.5	382.0	3.0	379.0	2.17
	Sewage Works	98.1	428.0	3.0	425.0	2.44
	Water Tower	98.9	397.0	3.0	394.0	2.24
July & Aug.	Market Hall	98.2	261.0	5.0	256.0	1.44
	Sewage Works	99.5	715.0	5.0	710.0	3.95
	Water Tower	97.8	365.0	5.0	360.0	2.04
Sep. to Nov.	Market Hall	99.0	1371.0	4.0	1367.0	5.64
	Sewage Works	97.5	738.0	4.0	734.0	3.08
	Water Tower	99.0	727.0	4.0	723.0	2.98
	Market Hall	98.0	345.0	4.0	341.0	3.85
	Water Tower	98.0	352.0	4.0	348.0	3.93
Dec. 1st to Dec. 31st	No. 1.	120.9	181.5	4.0	177.5	1.63
	No. 2.	123.2	588.0	4.0	584.0	5.25
	No. 3.	98.2	1085.0	4.0	1081.0	12.19
	No. 4.	121.0	366.0	4.0	362.0	3.31
	No. 5.	118.7	280.0	4.0	276.0	2.57
	No. 6.	116.6	377.0	4.0	373.0	3.55



Attention was also given to other chimneys in the neighbourhood belonging to institutions and works in the area, and it is realised that unless great improvement is made to prevent the emission of dense smoke from these chimneys it will be necessary for a report to be submitted to the Council with a view to action being taken.

### Food Inspection.

No slaughterhouses were licensed for the slaughter of animals for human consumption as the District continues to obtain its supply of meat from Doncaster abattoir. Three slaughterhouses were however "approved" by the local authority for the slaughter of cottager's pigs; generally the pigs examined were healthy but it must be borne in mind that, owing to the present legal requirements, large numbers of cottager's pigs slaughtered are not examined by this Department.

The Department was not entirely satisfied with the handling and transport of meat in the District. Approaches were made to the meat haulage contractor with a view to improvements, with the result that new metal container lorries were put into service. The storage room for meat in Mexborough is not, in my opinion, entirely satisfactory, and it is not large enough for the amount of meat handled and is not suitably refrigerated. I would thus suggest that meat storage room with good refrigeration should be provided.

Periodical visits were made to the Meat Receiving Depot, and weekly visits to wholesale grocers' premises and retail shops.

The following amounts of foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption :—

168 lbs. Sausages	175 tins Milk
295 Fish Cakes	7 Puddings
33 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Cheese	173 lbs. Dates
7 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Ham and Bacon	56 lbs. Currants
200 lbs. Flour	236 Eggs
258 lbs. Oats, etc.	134 jars Mixed Sauces
155 $\frac{1}{4}$ stones Fish	45 lbs. Tomatoes
4 Cucumbers	24 bunches Radishes
3 ozs. Lard	1 lb. Margerine
14 ozs. Butter	15 lbs. Brawn
368 lbs. Peas	340 lbs. Jam and Marmalade
1 tin Rhubarb	30 tins Soup

158	tins	Mussels	8	tins	Pork Sausages
20	tins	Apricots	6	tins	Pineapple
47	tins	Beetroot	22		Orange Juice
19	tins	Pears	4	tins	Grapes
2	tins	Peaches	36	tins	Braised Kidneys
11	tins	Parsnips	2	tins	Snoek
2	tins	Spaghetti	2	tins	Bacon
1	tin	Dried Eggs	82	tins	Tomato Juice
50	tins	Tomatoes	43	tins	Grapefruit
18	tins	Veal Loaf	16	tins	Beans
80	tins	Peas	48	tins	Luncheon Meat
6	tins	Fruit Salad	29	tins	Beef Loaf
110	tins	Danish Pork	4	tins	Apples
40	tins	Carrots	18	tins	Meat and Vegetables
14	tins	Salmon	4	tins	Plums
4	tins	Mixed Vegetables	1		Lamb's Tongue
14	tins	Pilchards			

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

15 Licences to slaughter or stun animals were issued during the year.

### Food Premises.

The following food preparing premises are registered with this authority :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tripe Boilers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Preparation and manufacture of sausages, pressed, pickled or preserved foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

Much time was devoted to inspections of all food premises with a view to enforcing Section 13, Food and Drugs Act, 1938. A comprehensive report was prepared with a view to evolving standards for the different types of premises. It is proposed in the coming year to utilise this information in raising the standard of premises, both from the point of view of personal hygiene and structural alterations.

Particular attention was given to ice cream premises, cafes and meat manufacturing premises.

### Ice Cream.

Twelve premises were approved for the sale of ice cream, most of which was pre-packed.

Eight samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. The results showed :—

Four samples in grade 1.

One sample in grade 2.

Three samples in grade 3.

Subsequent samples of one grade 2 supply and one grade 3 supply were found to be grade 1 standard.

### Milk Production.

There are four farms in the area. all of which produce milk.

Total number of cows ... ..	53
Total number of cowsheds ... ..	4
Number of inspections made ... ..	43

Of the four farms in the area, one produces accredited milk. Two supplementary licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936—1946 for the retailing of bottled Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milk.

### Public Cleansing.

#### Refuse collection.

It was found essential during the year to add one additional Karrier Bantam Refuse Collector to the existing fleet of three similar vehicles. This was due to the erection of housing estates and more factory premises installed in the town. It was possible to maintain a weekly collection service throughout the year, with the exception of a short period in the winter when the collection service was delayed somewhat by adverse conditions. 224,519 bin premises were visited and 4,040 loads of refuse removed. In addition there were 316 trade refuse loads and a weekly service for the cleansing of 19 pail closets in a remote part of the town.

#### Refuse Disposal.

The original tipping site on Pastures Road was completed in the early summer. Negotiations took place for adjoining land for tipping purposes but the Council was opposed by the Ouse Catchment Board, who regarded the land at issue as "wash-lands". Eventually, a very small area was agreed to and given Town Planning Authority.



An offer was received, however, from a Sports Club in an adjoining area of Swinton to tip-up a depression for conversion into a Sports field. This site gave approximately 18 months tipping space. If this site had not been available, the objection of the Ouse Catchment Board would have caused a major crisis in the refuse disposal service. The total cost of refuse collection and disposal was £6,761. The corresponding cost in 1947 was £5,807, the increase of £954, being due to one extra vehicle, more staff and wages increases.

### Salvage.

Salvage work was still carried on and the following quantities of waste materials were collected by the Department and sold as salvage :—

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Waste paper*	...	...	...	...	115	17	0	0
Textiles	...	...	...	...	2	0	1	5
Cullet	...	...	...	...	7	14	3	0
Scrap	...	...	...	...	1	15	3	0
Jars and bottles	...	566	dozs.					

The total income from salvage was £855/19/8, this figure being the highest annual return since the inauguration of salvage in 1940.

### Conclusion.

During the year under review the Staff has been increased by one qualified Sanitary Inspector, which has enabled inspection work to be opened out over a wider field. It has been possible to amass information on housing and food premises with a view to energetic action by this authority in the future. These last two subjects are going to be given the major part of the Department's efforts in the coming year. It is proposed to carry out more extensive repairs to the "better class" of property and to represent the few worst and dangerous cases for Statutory action by the Council. It is proposed also to bring into effect more strongly the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 with a view to improving still further the standard of food premises and personal hygiene in the food trade.

A problem that will have to be met is that of tipping space, as the only available land, at the moment in the District is included in the "wash-lands" of the Ouse Catchment Board. I feel also that the refuse collection service will have to be implemented still further to ensure the weekly collection to householders.

The question of dirty and verminous houses, particularly on Council Estates is one to which attention will have to be given. With the use of modern insecticides and co-operation by tenants, there is no reason why bed-bugs and similar parasites should not be eradicated completely from the town.

In April, 1948, Dr. T. Lindsay, relinquished his appointment as Medical Officer of Health, which appointment he had held for eight years. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking him for his assistance and advice to my department during that period, especially during the strenuous war years. Dr. J. Leiper succeeded Dr. Lindsay as Medical Officer of Health in April, 1948, and I am grateful for the continued guidance and advice which he has extended to the Department. I look forward to a happy association during the coming years.

In conclusion, I beg to acknowledge the help and support which the Council has given to the Department in the past year and assure them every effort will be made to maintain and improve the Sanitary services of the township.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BREARLEY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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